

holding said pipe in said cavity by inserting a controlling pin, which extends through a wall of the mold to the said cavity, into said hole of said bracket; and

pouring a molten aluminum alloy into said cavity so as to enclose said pipe with said aluminum alloy, wherein said pipe is free to move in an axial direction relative to said mold until said aluminum alloy hardens; and

wherein said controlling member is configured to allow axial movement of said pipe without radial dislocation.

REMARKS

This Amendment amends independent claims 1, 8, 17, and 18. Support for the amendments to claims 1, 8, 17, and 18 can be found in the specification as originally filed. Claims 1-18 are pending in this application.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion that claims 1-18 of the present invention are obvious over JP 4-294855 in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (page 1, third paragraph), and further in view of FR 1,243,333. The amendments to independent claims 1, 8, 17, and 18 distinguish over the cited references because these references fail to teach individually or in combination a controlling member in a pipe arrangement that allows for the pipe to move freely in an axial direction without radial dislocation relative to the mold until the aluminum alloy hardens. Reconsideration of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

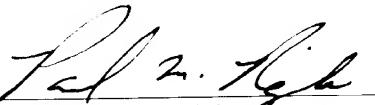
Examiner Tran is thanked for the courtesy extended to Applicants and Applicants' representatives, Mr. Reznick and Ms. Patel, in the telephone interview conducted on April 11, 2003. The Examiner's suggestions are currently under consideration by the Applicants. Additionally, the Applicants have enclosed an English translation of the FR 1,243,333 reference for the Examiner's convenience.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-18 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION SHOWING MARKED-UP CHANGES MADE

1. (Twice Amended) A method for manufacturing an aluminum cast product enclosing a pipe inserted therein, which comprises the steps of:

projecting a controlling member into a cavity of a mold;

arranging a pipe at a predetermined position in said cavity of said mold;

holding said pipe in said cavity by insertion of said controlling member into at least one opening of said pipe or insertion of at least one end of said pipe in to a hole of said controlling member; and

pouring a molten aluminum alloy into said cavity so as to enclose said pipe with said aluminum alloy, wherein said pipe is free to move in an axial direction relative to said mold until said aluminum alloy hardens.

8. (Twice Amended) A method for production of aluminum cast product enclosing a pipe therein, which comprises the steps of:

coupling a bracket having a hole to a pipe;

arranging said pipe at a predetermined position in a cavity of a mold;

holding said pipe in said cavity by inserting a controlling pin, which extends through a wall of the mold to the said cavity, into said hole of said bracket; and

pouring a molten aluminum alloy into said cavity so as to enclose said pipe with said aluminum alloy, wherein said pipe is free to move in an axial direction relative to said mold until said aluminum alloy hardens.

17. (Once Amended) A method for manufacturing an aluminum cast product enclosing a pipe inserted therein, which comprises the steps of:

projecting a controlling member into a cavity of a mold;

arranging a pipe at a predetermined position in said cavity of said mold;

holding said pipe in said cavity by insertion of said controlling member into at least one opening of said pipe or insertion of at least one end of said pipe in to a hole of said controlling member; and

pouring a molten aluminum alloy into said cavity so as to enclose said pipe with said aluminum alloy, wherein said pipe is free to move in an axial direction relative to said mold until said aluminum alloy hardens; and

wherein said controlling member is configured to allow axial movement of said pipe without radial dislocation.

18. (Once Amended) A method for production of aluminum cast product enclosing a pipe therein, which comprises the steps of:

coupling a bracket having a hole to a pipe;

arranging said pipe at a predetermined position in a cavity of a mold;

holding said pipe in said cavity by inserting a controlling pin, which extends through a wall of the mold to the said cavity, into said hole of said bracket; and

pouring a molten aluminum alloy into said cavity so as to enclose said pipe with said aluminum alloy, wherein said pipe is free to move in an axial direction relative to said mold until said aluminum alloy hardens; and

wherein said controlling member is configured to allow axial movement of said pipe without radial dislocation.